

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Support frame for relieving the vertebral column in the trunk area between the hips and the thoracic vertebrae, comprising a hip clasp supported on the hips of the patient and a thoracic vertebrae clasp supported on the area of the thoracic vertebrae, which are connected with one another by means of support rods extending parallel to the vertebral column,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein
the distance between the hip clasp (1) and the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2) is adjustable.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the support rods (3) that run parallel to the vertebral column are adjustable in length.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in ~~claims 1 and 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the length-adjustable support rods (3) of the support frame are subdivided, in each instance, whereby the support rod sections (3a, 3b) overlap, seen in the longitudinal direction of the vertebral column, and can be adjustably fixed to one another in the area of overlapping.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in ~~claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the support rod sections (3a, 3b) are connected in one piece with the hip clasp (1) and the thoracic vertebrae clasp, (2) respectively, and provided with means of attachment in the area of overlapping, with which they can be fixed to one another.

Claim 5 (original): The support rod sections (3a, 3b) can be fixed to one another by means of hook and loop closures (4), in the area of overlapping.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in ~~claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the support rod sections (3a, 3b) are guided on one another in telescoping manner, and can be fixed to one another at different extension lengths.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support rods (5) that run parallel to the vertebral column can be releasably attached both to the hip clasp (1) and to the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2), and can be replaced with support rods (5) having a different length and/or stiffness.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein accommodation pockets (6) are provided on the hip clasp (1), on the one hand, and on the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2), on the other hand, into which support rods (5) having different lengths can be inserted.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~,
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the length-adjustable support rods (3) and the
interchangeable reinforcement rods (5) consist of plastic and/or of steel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Support frame as recited in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~,
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2) is additionally provided
with an extension (3c, 9) that reaches all the way under the shoulder blades of the patient, which
is also held by the support rods (3), which in this case are configured to be correspondingly
longer.